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February 24, 1989

Editor
THE NATION
72 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

Dear Editor,

THE NATION has been distorting and covering up the facts surrounding John Kennedy's administration and death since the days of Fred J. Cook and Carry McWilliams. Ask Cook himself or read his book MAVERICK, if you're not already aware of this.

The recent editorials by Andrew Kopkind (12-5-88) and Jefferson Morley (12-12-88), plus Kopkind's reply to Weisberg's letter (2-20-89) are but the most recent examples of lies piled upon nonsense.

If the extent of Morley's knowledge of the facts of Kennedy's murder stops at the book LIBRA and the movie TAXI DRIVER, than he ought to be writing critical reviews for the magazine M--for the civilized moron, not wasting NATION reader's time with obfuscation.

Kennedy just may "enter the history books as a warmonger not a peacemaker" as Kopkind states, but these same "history" books will no doubt also portray Nixon as a peacemaker not a warmonger! For Kennedy was indeed going to withdraw all U.S. personnel out of Vietnam by 1965. These intentions are detailed in NSAM 263, dated Oct. 11, 1963. Johnson, in fact, reversed the directive in NSAM 273 three days after the assassination. The BOSTON GLOBE has published this information (see my letter, enclosed), why haven't you?

By ordering this reversal of policy in Vietnam, he was bucking the

warmongers at the Pentagon and in his cabinet, as he had with the signing of the test ban treaty and encouraging dètente with Moscow. He was bucking the corporate elite by siding with steel workers and fighting the oil depletion allowance. Kennedy was riding a tiger, and showing strong signs of taming it in a second term.

Meanwhile liberals day-dreamed about a Stevenson presidency when the country had almost voted in Nixon.

Mr. Kopkind, read the Report of the Warren Commission again. It's even more absurd and further from the truth than your analysis. If THE NATION can't deal accurately with the facts of J.F.K.'s murder, then it's editors make a mockery of the magazine's original prospectus of 1865, which pledged to:

> "...make an earnest effort to bring to the discussion of political and social questions a really critical spirit, and to wage war upon the vices of violence, exagerration, and misrepresentation by which so much of the political writing of the day is marred."

Sincerly,

Mike Conway

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